

Fall 2010

Foundations

Amy Cagle

Bo Hemphill

Cathy Lammons

John P. Rush

Mississippi State University Foundation

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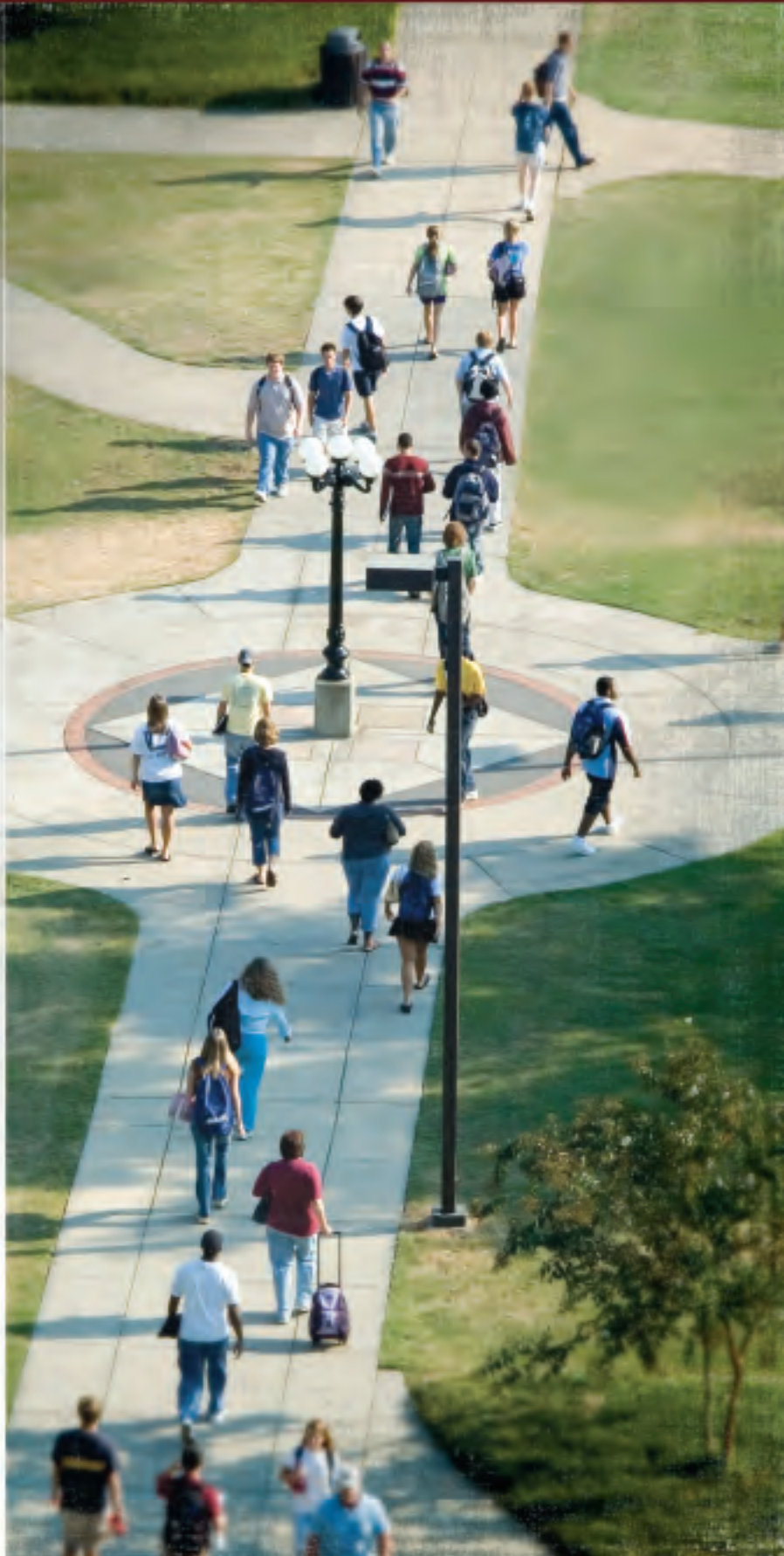
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foundations

FALL 2010 | VOL. 10 NO. 2

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION



Mississippi State hits record enrollment of over 19,600 students as *StatePride* fundraising continues.

EXTENDING

OUR

REACH

For the second consecutive year, the MSU Foundation has surpassed \$60 million in private gifts. Growing from \$60 million in FY 09 to over \$65 million in FY 10 was a trend not experienced by many of our peer institutions. Your generosity allowed Mississippi State to register our third highest giving year, and first time ever to surpass \$60 million in consecutive years. We continue to be humbled and awed by the generosity of the Bulldog faithful.

We are also excited to report that our alumni giving percentage reached a record high of 19 percent—an increase from 14 percent in the previous year. That figure is significant, since the number of alumni giving to their degree-granting institutions appears to be down nationally. A recent study by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* revealed that alumni giving fell significantly in 2009. Again, your faithful support allowed us to excel. And ultimately, we hope to rank at the top in alumni participation among our peer institutions. With your help, we can continue our steady climb.

As we celebrate your contributions, we also take the opportunity to evaluate the growth in private support and anticipate the challenges and opportunities ahead of us as the university ushers in a record number of students. A quick analysis of the data shows slightly more than half of our alumni call Mississippi home. The data also reflects that the majority of the charitable dollars committed to MSU come from alumni within the state, as well as Mississippi based friends, corporations, foundations and other organizations.

A deeper review reveals alumni from outside of Mississippi contributed more funds to MSU in FY 10 than any other single group. The states of Alabama, Tennessee and Texas have seen the number of their MSU alumni residents rise to over 5,000, and I suspect this trend may continue. This growing number of out-of-state alumni should prove to be a wonderful base for both student recruiting and financial support. We are also experiencing a double-digit alumni participation rate in several states.

While this increase of support beyond the Magnolia State is exciting, it also creates a challenge for the MSU Foundation staff to appropriately engage our contributors. We believe this to be a great opportunity for growth. As a result, we hope to introduce you to several new faces in the coming months that will assist us in expanding our connection with alumni and friends both in Mississippi and throughout the United States.

**John Rush**

VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI

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The Mississippi State University Foundation is a nonprofit corporation organized to foster, encourage, and promote the educational purposes of the university. In providing its support and services through the pursuit of endowments and other gifts, as well as asset management, the foundation enriches and enhances the academic quality and reputation of Mississippi State University.

Discrimination based upon race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or veteran's status is a violation of federal and state law and MSU policy and will not be tolerated. Discrimination based upon sexual orientation or group affiliation is a violation of MSU policy and will not be tolerated.



Turner Wingo

Building Bulldog Legacy with Pride

MSU enthusiast Turner Wingo celebrated the 2009 Egg Bowl victory with friend Gloria Word.

A deep appreciation of Mississippi State led Turner Wingo to financially support his alma mater because he wanted to provide future generations of Bulldogs with the means to succeed. Now Wingo encourages others to give by the example he sets as a supporter of MSU's latest fundraising initiative, *StatePride*.

The Collierville, Tenn., resident and retired retailer has remained a proud Bulldog since graduating with a bachelor's degree in business in 1967. As a member of the MSU Foundation board of directors, Wingo has traditionally invested his financial resources in scholarships.

Recently, Wingo deeded land in Marshall County, Miss., to the university. Proceeds from the land, valued at \$2.95 million, will establish an endowment for scholarships and an endowed professorship, both in the College of Business. The gift will also fund a multi-disciplinary classroom in a planned state-of-the-art facility for campus.

His philanthropic support of MSU began a number of years ago when he and his late wife,

Sherry Davis Wingo, established several scholarships. The couple shared a goal of investing in students so they could experience the best Mississippi State education possible.

The recent gift from Wingo created an endowment to fund a previously established scholarship in perpetuity. The Turner and Sherry Wingo Scholarship in Business will be awarded to eight students enrolled in the college each year. Recipients may be freshmen, sophomores, juniors or seniors, and the scholarships may be renewed on an annual basis.

“Every year, the recipients write me letters to say thanks for the scholarships, and when you get the letters, you really know that you are doing the right thing,” Wingo said. “In one of the letters I received, the student said she will be the first person in her family to ever go to college, and that this scholarship was making it possible. It was important to me to create the endowment.”

Wingo’s lifelong support of MSU extends to several annual and endowed scholarship funds which assist qualified students in the colleges of business, engineering and architecture, art and design. He has also made a bequest to Mississippi State which will one day increase his support of several university areas.

By virtue of the way he designs his gifts, Wingo helps MSU compete with larger universities across the county.

“Students are shopping around for the best offer, and we have to be able to compete for those students by offering them an excellent education with the best educators and state-of-the-art facilities,” he said.

Establishing an endowed faculty position is a new endeavor for Wingo. His understanding of the university’s need for high-caliber professors comes with a willingness to provide a first-rate education for the recipients of his many scholarships. The endowed position in business will be held by a distinguished faculty member or be used to attract a promising candidate.

In addition to providing a means by which MSU can recruit students and attract world-class faculty, Wingo has another goal—to encourage others to support the university through *StatePride*. As a loyal Bulldog fan, he hopes as many individuals as possible take advantage of athletic matching dollars available over the course of the initiative.

“At MSU, anybody that wants to help can,” Wingo said. “Any contribution to scholarships helps the university educate and graduate both talented and deserving students. Other gifts can help MSU stay competitive on and off the field with a great faculty, wonderful facilities and a beautiful campus.”

“I really enjoy MSU,” he said. “And I want others to be able to build the kind of memories that I have.”

STATEPRIDE

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
Initiative for Student and Faculty Support



University experiences early *StatePride* success

For donors like Turner Wingo who share a deep appreciation of all things Mississippi State, *StatePride* is a giving opportunity worthy of exploration.

Mississippi State is in the second year of the initiative, which seeks private gifts to award need-based scholarships for deserving students and academic scholarships to compete for the most outstanding students. *StatePride* also creates opportunities for top performing faculty.

Funds immediately available from *StatePride* are providing \$1 million in faculty awards and \$1 million in scholarships for the current fall semester. This is a result of matching funds provided annually through a special partnership with MSU Athletics over the course of the initiative.

Since its launch in 2009, *StatePride* has raised over \$42 million toward its \$100 million goal. Mississippi State will continue to place an emphasis on *StatePride* priorities through calendar year 2012.

Visit the MSU Foundation at www.msufoundation.com to learn more.

FURTHERING LIFE'S WORK

CATTLEMAN INVESTS IN STUDENTS, FACULTY



ONE OF MILTON SUNDBECK'S MOST PRIZED POSSESSIONS IS HIS HERD OF 150 CATTLE THAT RESIDE ON HIS TOWN CREEK FARM BETWEEN WEST POINT AND COLUMBUS, AND HE DOESN'T ENTRUST THEIR CARE TO JUST ANYONE.



Sundbeck, president and CEO of West Point-based Southern Ionics Inc. (SII), owns a cattle operation in Clay County where he raises Brangus, a hardy and popular breed of beef cattle, for commercial use and seedstock production.

Sundbeck's stock has its genetic origins from Cow Creek Ranch LLC, in Aliceville, Ala. The ranch is one of the U.S. beef industry's most respected seedstock providers and well-known for the Ultrablack, a cross between a Brangus and an Angus.

"Animal husbandry provides me with a great sense of satisfaction. I am fortunate to have a partnership with Cow Creek Ranch," said Sundbeck, an Austin native who hails from a family of Texas cattlemen and dairymen.

Several years ago, Sundbeck enlisted MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine in the reproductive management and preventative care of his herd. Faculty members Dr. Jim Brett and Dr. Richard Hopper, among others, provide care when needed. The association between Sundbeck and CVM allows students an opportunity to obtain vital field experience.

"I didn't realize MSU offered a large ambulatory service with its animal hospital until I explored my options after my veterinarian, Dr. Pete Edwards, retired," Sundbeck said. "Since then, I've been very pleased with the care provided and the knowledge shared by CVM professionals."



Milton Sundbeck with a few of his Brangus at Town Creek Farm.



Bringing care on site from MSU are (from left) Dr. Richard Hopper, professor of pathobiology; Dr. Craig Easley, theriogenology resident; MSU students Dana Chapman, Lissa Wash and Tribetta Spires; and Sundbeck.

“Continuing an association with Mississippi State will prove beneficial in helping both SII and Town Creek Farm achieve its goals.”

~ MILTON SUNDBECK

An appreciation of the university’s teaching and research activities led Sundbeck to make a generous gift to CVM, Mississippi’s only veterinary college.

Sundbeck’s gift supports an annual award fund for deserving veterinary medicine faculty members. The award, created through *StatePride: An Initiative for Student and Faculty Support*, will recognize meritorious members for their teaching, research or service activities.

Sundbeck understands the importance of a quality technical education, so it is not surprising he has added his name to the list of *StatePride* scholarship supporters. Recipients of the Southern Ionics Endowed Scholarship in the Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering must be entering full-time freshmen, with a minimum high school grade-point average of 3.5 and a minimum ACT score of 29.

Sundbeck also shares a kinship with Mississippi State’s chemical engineering school. He received his chemistry education at the University of Texas before beginning his career with Hercules, Inc. He later joined American Cyanamid before founding SII in 1980.

“It makes sense for me to invest in the students and faculty of Mississippi State since they impact the industry we serve,” said Sundbeck, who also owns and operates The Ritz Theater & Conference Center in downtown West Point.

SII is built on four cornerstones: service, quality, technology and delivery. The company manufactures specialty inorganic chemicals based on aluminum, magnesium, sulfur, ammonia and zirconium chemistry. These chemicals include products to purify water, refine diesel and gasoline, control emissions from power and industrial furnaces, and manufacture paper, paint and soap. With company sales exceeding \$150 million annually, SII has 250 employees.

“Our vision is to have Southern Ionics excel in safety, reliability, quality and service,” Sundbeck said. “We strive to be a company our customers and employees trust, have confidence in, and can depend upon – recognizing that excellence is a way of life built on every action we take.”

“Continuing an association with Mississippi State will prove beneficial in helping both SII and Town Creek Farm achieve its goals,” he added.

Besides its West Point manufacturing facility, SII operates a chemical research and development facility located near the Golden Triangle Airport in Lowndes County, which conducts research focused on developing products and manufacturing techniques. The firm also has manufacturing operations in Alabama, Louisiana, Tennessee and Texas.

Ring in the new year with an MSU calendar



Ring in 2011 with the new MSU hanging wall calendar, and feel like you are spending every day on campus.

Enjoy beautiful pictures of familiar places and campus scenes that bring back special memories of your time at State. The official MSU calendar has become a Bulldog tradition. With pictures taken by MSU's own award-winning photographers, it's truly a one-of-a-kind treasure. Spread the Bulldog spirit in your home or office by ordering one today. Visit the MSU Foundation website at www.msufoundation.com or call 662-325-7000.



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY
FOUNDATION



Elmo McClain



Arlie Wilson

EVERLASTING FRIENDSHIP:

Scholarship entwines legacy of '40s classmates

For classmates Elmo Fondren McClain and Arlie Wilson, campus life in the late 1930s revolved around memorable days studying at then-Mississippi State College and evenings spent with friends at famed Old Main Dormitory.

Today, an endowed scholarship in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the university honors the lives of these fellow classmates and their devotion to education.

Originally established by Wilson, a retired MSU faculty member, and his wife, Ethel, the scholarship has been assisting undergraduate and graduate students pursuing entomology and plant pathology since 1993. It was recently reorganized to include funds from the McClain family, and the name was changed to reflect the contribution.

“I’m very proud that the association of our names continues at our alma mater, and I know Elmo would have been pleased with the scholarship,” Wilson said.

McClain and Wilson majored in entomology and graduated in 1940.

“Elmo and I were close buddies. We worked summers together for the USDA performing cotton insect research, and we shared a lot of great times on campus,” recalled the 94 year-old Wilson.

McClain was always working to help defray college expenses by giving haircuts to his fellow Old Main residents and working with the Harned dairy farms. He was a transfer student who was a member of the first graduating class of Wood College, a former two-year learning institution.

“Elmo was not particularly studious, but once he had a taste of education at Wood College, he saw the importance of education enough to study hard and earn his way to attend Mississippi State,” explained younger brother, George McClain.

Upon graduation from Mississippi State, McClain and Wilson looked forward to pursuing graduate degrees.

Wilson attended Iowa State University, by way of a scholarship, and received his masters in entomology. McClain earned a scholarship to attend North Carolina State.

In 1941, the attack on Pearl Harbor would alter their paths, and both men would play a role in World War II.

Wilson was commissioned as an entomologist with the U.S. Public Health Service. He was stationed in Arkansas, and later transferred to the regional office in New York City where he worked in mosquito control research. He then spent several years at Rutgers University as an experiment station researcher.

After the war, an influx of veterans returning as students to Mississippi State College brought Wilson back to Starkville as a faculty member in 1948. He enjoyed a long career with his alma mater, and retired in 1980 as a professor emeritus of entomology.

McClain would pursue a different path when he decided to suspend his graduate education at North Carolina State. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and earned his flight wings. His assignment was active combat in North Africa aboard a Boeing-17 with the 12th Air Force, 429th Bombardment Squadron.

Unfortunately, McClain was shot down over Naples, Italy in 1943, and was paralyzed from the neck down. After spending months as a prisoner of war, he was liberated to the United States. He would eventually regain some mobility through surgery at Kennedy General Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., and rehabilitation at the Air Force Convalescent Center in Miami, Fla.

“Elmo was a loyal American and knew the value of freedom and education and thought every individual should have those opportunities,” said George.

At the time of his death in 2003, McClain resided in Miami Lakes, Fla. He was a retired manager of Hertz Auto Rental at the Miami International Airport.

As with most endowments at Mississippi State University, the Wilson-McClain Endowed Scholarship is an open fund which can benefit from additional contributions.



Above: Bobbie McClain Gore and George McClain



Remembering a Bulldog

In the Bulldog spirit of giving, two siblings of the late Elmo Fondren McClain have memorialized the 1940 entomology graduate with a special tribute on campus.

A gift from Bobbie McClain Gore and George McClain, brother and sister of the late POW, supports a tutor room in the Templeton Athletic Academic Center. The McClain room is one of two tutorial areas for student athletes.

“We wanted to be the first to name a tutor room in the Templeton Center. It is another way to help MSU students and honor our brother who loved sports,” explained Gore.

Gore and McClain are Starkville residents who share a deep affection for Mississippi State University. Gore earned her master's degree in education from MSU and is retired from Starkville High School. McClain attended Holmes Community College and is retired from the insurance business.

The McClain siblings are natives of Choctaw County. The family also includes Helen King of Atlanta, Ga., Reba Harris of Augusta, W. Va., and Betty Boyd of North Augusta, S.C.

Alumni and friends may remember classmates, friends and family with naming opportunities throughout MSU's athletic facilities. Interested persons may contact Michelle McBride, associate athletic director for development, at 662.325.6312 or email mmcbride@foundation.msstate.edu.

An Amazing Journey

CONTINUES



Above: Shane Kitchens with Alex Crawford
Inset: Laura Beck Kitchens

When Laura Beck Kitchens joined the MSU Division of Development and Alumni in 2002, she was enthusiastic about working for her alma mater. Laura proved to be an activist for the university, and those who worked with her were encouraged by her passion and deep love for MSU.

When Laura entered a room, she filled it with radiance. She lived with energy and vigor in her profession as well as her personal life.

Family, colleagues and friends began a journey with Laura and her husband, Shane, when she was diagnosed with cancer at age 29. She created a website called “One Amazing Journey” on which she wrote:

“One amazing journey. That’s what the last several years have been. An incredible adventure of life, love, faith and hope...with unexpected treasures at every turn. I was diagnosed with a rare kind of cancer in 2003. My story does not focus on the disease, but rather on the blessings—and adventures—it has brought. Through this website, I hope to share a few tales from the road, so to speak, and maybe in doing so, offer a little hope and light to others.”

In her creative style, Laura asked her readers to journey with her. On March 6, 2009, Laura lost her battle with cancer. However, her journey

continues with the family and friends who supported her.

Shortly after Laura passed away, a scholarship was created in her memory at Mississippi State. Family and friends generously created this endowed scholarship with the passion instilled in them by such a young and energetic woman.

The first Laura Beck Kitchens Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Alex Crawford from Louise. A freshman pursuing forestry, Crawford is receiving \$1,000 for the academic year, with the opportunity to renew the scholarship for another three years.

“This scholarship ties Laura to her beloved MSU forever, and we are grateful for all those who have and continue to contribute. This allows us to build and continue this legacy,” said Shane.

He continued, “This scholarship is the perfect summation of all that Laura loved, and we will continue to share her amazing journey and her amazing spirit through its recipients.”

The Laura Beck Kitchens Memorial Scholarship will provide opportunities in perpetuity, and allow recipients to pursue their educational goals for generations. These students can create their own journey in life with the same Bulldog spirit displayed by the scholarship’s namesake.

The Value of Giving

In 2009, the MSU Foundation launched a special initiative to garner support for scholarships and faculty awards. *StatePride*: An Initiative for Student and Faculty Support is a strategic fundraising plan that seeks to raise \$100 million by December 31, 2012.

The major focus of *StatePride* will be to help MSU attract exceptional students from the state and the region, and create opportunities for top performing faculty members.

For more information on *StatePride*, contact the MSU Foundation at 662-325-7000 or visit our website at www.msufoundation.com.

PROFILE: *Melissa Moore, Ph.D.*

COLLEGE: Business

EMPHASIS: Marketing, Quantitative Analysis and Business Law

AWARD: Notable Scholar

"True passion for your work guarantees that you are going to excel, regardless. However, when alumni recognize your efforts and validate that what you do is important, you now have a directed passion with a purpose — one that pushes even the best to maximize student performance."

STATEPRIDE
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
Initiative for Student and Faculty Support



PASSION

Division of Development and Alumni selects three graduates for new roles

Mississippi State University graduates have been appointed to key positions within the Division of Development and Alumni.



Hampel

Alumna Barbie Hampel now directs the annual giving program for the MSU Foundation. In her new role, Hampel is responsible for securing annual gifts for the university through

direct marketing efforts. She also oversees the university's Bulldog Calling Center that employs MSU students year-round to make telephone solicitations of alumni and friends.

A Hatton, Ala. native, Hampel holds a bachelor of arts in psychology and a master's degree in public policy and administration with an emphasis in human resources from Mississippi State. She has served as coordinator of the MSU Foundation's telefunding program since 2006.



Howard

Succeeding Hampel as coordinator of telefunding programs is Courtney Howard of Starkville. Howard was most recently a manager for the Bulldog Calling Center. She holds a bachelor of science

degree in broadcast meteorology from MSU, and works with WCBI-TV as a meteorologist. Under her guidance, callers will continue to update database records for the institution's alumni and friends and solicit annual gifts. She is a native of

New Orleans.

Also joining the Division of Development and Alumni is Jackie Hudson, an alumna and Starkville resident.



Hudson

Hudson will assist with the development

and implementation of the stewardship program within the division. The role of the stewardship coordinator is to foster relationships between scholarship donors and student recipients, assist with events, and handle stewardship communications.

Hudson's previous experience includes work as a news anchor, producer, reporter and meteorologist with WCBI-TV. She has also worked as a Starkville beat writer for VisitSouth.com, as well as a registrar's assistant for MSU's Division of Academic Outreach and Continuing Education. An Arkansas native, Hudson holds degrees in communication and geosciences from MSU.

Mississippi State marks third highest giving year in university history

The MSU Foundation reached a new milestone with its fundraising efforts at the close of FY 10. For a second consecutive year, university giving topped the \$60 million mark, with more than \$65 million contributed.

Much of the fiscal year giving was through the specialized initiative *StatePride*.

“The generosity of donors sparked the third highest giving year in university history and marked the first time in our fundraising history we’ve experienced consecutive \$60 million plus years,” said John P. Rush, vice president for development and alumni and CEO of the MSU Foundation. “We were pleased to exceed \$61.5 million in FY 09, and were extremely pleased to surpass \$65 million for FY 10.”

Of the total funds raised for FY 10, new gifts accounted for more than \$25.9 million, and new pledges totaled in excess of \$30.9 million. Deferred gifts made up the remaining \$8.2 million plus.

MSU President Mark E. Keenum said, “Alumni and friends continue to provide strong support for our university despite difficult economic times. These efforts represent a powerful testament to the generosity of those who give, and the value they attach to the leadership role Mississippi State is playing in our state and nation.”

Keenum continued, “We are especially gratified by the investments in scholarships and endowed faculty positions that are helping ensure

a quality education for an expanding population of deserving students.”

An influx in contributions for the on-going *StatePride* initiative fueled the year. Mississippi State is in the second year of the effort to secure student scholarships and awards for meritorious faculty members in recognition of their teaching, research or service activities.

A surge in athletic giving also impacted fiscal year totals.

“We are energized by donors who understand the importance of contributing to the university as a whole, with a passion for athletics and academics. These individuals are utilizing available matching funds to assist the university as it prepares for more students,” said MSU Athletic Director Scott Stricklin.

StatePride has generated funds which are already impacting MSU. For fall 2010, \$1 million in faculty awards and \$1 million in scholarships have been awarded. This amount is a result of matching funds provided annually through a special partnership with MSU Athletics over the course of the initiative.

More than \$42 million has been raised toward *StatePride*. The initiative will continue through Dec. 31, 2012.

For information on *StatePride*, visit www.msufoundation.com or contact Bo Hemphill, executive director of development, at 662-325-7000.

Make the most of matching gifts!

A matching gift can strengthen contributions given to scholarships, technology upgrades, program enhancements and other areas of Mississippi State. Individuals who work for an employer who participates in a matching gift program may be able to double or even triple contributions to the university.

In 2009, MSU received just under \$700,000 from matching gift companies. The top five companies who matched gifts to the university during the calendar year were ConocoPhillips, Entergy Corp., Exxon, Mississippi Power Co. and State Farm Companies.

To take advantage of matching gifts, alumni and friends should check with their employer's human resource department to see if the company matches contributions made by employees. For more information on the program, contact Lynn Shurden, director of gift administration, at 662.325.8918, or lshurden@advservices.msstate.edu.



New Distinguished Scholars named



Eight incoming freshmen are receiving Mississippi State's most prestigious scholarships, which provide full tuition and room and board for four years of study. The university's 2010-11 Distinguished Scholars class includes (back row, left to right): Channing Osborne of Canton, Jeffrey C. "Clint" Pride of Ridgeland, Vijay Kannuthurai of Hazlehurst and Whitney Ray of Pontotoc. The trio of students on front (left to right) are: Khanh Nguyen of Gautier, Anna E. Russell of Madison and Whitney L. Knight of Wesson. Not pictured is Matthew Berk of Starkville.

PREPARING

MSU FOR

HISTORIC

ENROLLMENT

As I make my way across the Drill Field, toward the Leo W. Seal Family Business Complex, it’s not hard to notice the more than 1,000 additional students on campus this fall. Mississippi State is approaching its goal of 22,000 students by 2015 at a record pace. This steady enrollment growth creates many opportunities for alumni and friends.

With a fall enrollment of over 19,600, we are already beginning to see the benefits of *StatePride*. The initiative for student and faculty support has raised over \$42 million as it moves toward a \$100 million goal. In FY 10 alone, you helped create an additional \$1 million of spendable funds for student scholarships and an additional \$1 million for faculty development. These gifts allow us to have an immediate impact on today’s students and faculty.

The partnership between the MSU Foundation and MSU Athletics in conjunction with *StatePride* is going strong. Athletic matching dollars have strengthened the impact of gifts from many alumni and friends.

A continued increase in enrollment also brings challenges. When some students decided to attend MSU this fall, they found a shortage of housing. Residence halls have reached capacity, and another dormitory is needed for the projected number of students who will seek campus housing over the next few years. Private funds are also needed for an academic building to create more centrally located classrooms.

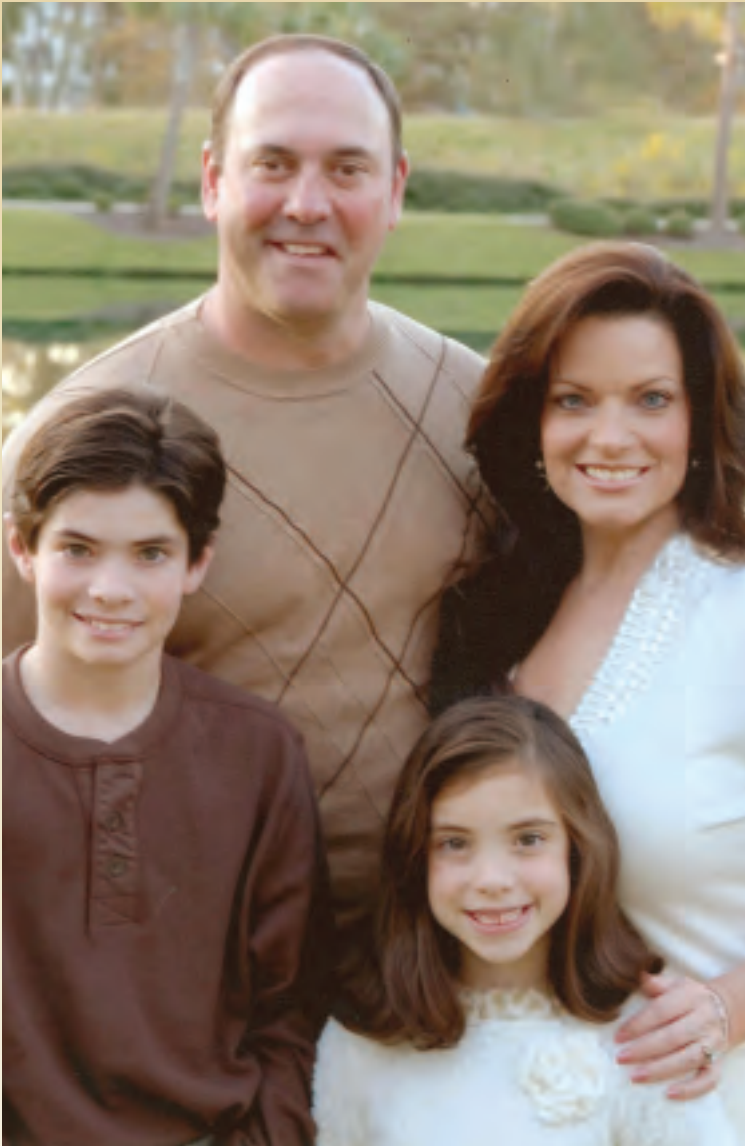
Preparing MSU for 22,000 students will require additional private support. In recent years, the MSU Foundation has increased its offerings to extend to gifts of real property, such as residential or vacation homes, timberland, agricultural or commercial property or even undeveloped property. Two programs assist individuals with utilizing their real estate — Bulldog Properties and the Bulldog Forest. Both avenues allow donors to take advantage of certain personal benefits. A gift of real estate is a great way to provide scholarship support, endow a faculty position, assist with the construction of new facilities, and provide program enhancements.

Regardless of your method of giving, supporting Mississippi State can have advantages for you, and, more importantly, for the deserving students and talented faculty of our university. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you on campus soon.



Bo Hemphill

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Loyalty. Pride. Passion.

DONORS The Will Clark Family

HOMETOWN Prairieville, La.

THEIR HISTORY

Will Clark still ignites a passion in MSU fans. Many of them recall his performance in the Bulldog's third-place finish in the 1985 College World Series. For his success, Will was named to the College World Series Legends Team. The former Bulldog baseball standout, known as "The Thrill," still holds MSU's best career batting average.

A New Orleans native, Will enjoyed a 15-year career in Major League Baseball, playing for the San Francisco Giants, Texas Rangers, Baltimore Orioles and St. Louis Cardinals. He was a six-time All-Star first baseman and a Gold Glove winner. He is an inductee of the MSU Sports Hall of Fame, College Baseball Hall of Fame, Texas Baseball Hall of Fame and Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame.

Will currently works as a special assistant for the San Francisco Giants. He and his wife, Lisa, live near Baton Rouge with their two children, Trey and Ella. They have been tireless advocates for autism since Trey was diagnosed with the condition.

THEIR GIVING

The Clarks are proud supporters of MSU. Recently, Will made a lead gift to help secure athletic matching funds needed for faculty awards as part of the *StatePride* initiative. Earlier he served on the steering committee for *State of the Future: The Mississippi State Campaign*.

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